

Brushy Creek Trail Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, July 24, 2014

Chair Pat Reed called The Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. July 24, 2014. Attending: Amber O'Neill, Eddie Elkin, Greg VanFosson, Erin Ford, Whitney Davis, DNR Bureau Chief Todd Coffelt, directors: Pat Reed, Linda Jenny, Doug Follmann, and Beth Aswegan.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Doug Follmann moved to accept the minutes, second by Linda Jenny, minutes approved.

Bureau Chief Todd Coffelt gave a review of the Iowa Park Foundation and public meetings to promote the anniversary of state parks. The Iowa Parks Foundation supports a regional approach to connect city, county, and state parks to enhance and improve recreational opportunities, available to all users. This approach is based on the "Parks to People" plan completed by the Governor's Green Ribbon Commission. Presented to the state legislature, it has been picked up by the locally led Great People Great Experiences plan to received \$ 2 million to work with local groups that would be interested in improving parks at county, state and local level. Defined by the vision of local people in the area, the chosen promotional plan has to be supported by county, state and local people.

The conservation groups and friends groups, have met with parks foundation in the Des Moines DNR office. Meetings have followed in the local areas. The Iowa Park Foundation will decide by the end of August which proposal(s) will receive the \$1 or 2 million, for development of parks.

The DNR budget has been cut \$225,000. Iowa Park Foundation will receive \$2 million and \$2 million will be determined to grant to a new State Park in Northwest Iowa, Blood Run State Park. DNR will be filling 6 park staff vacancies.

Amber O'Neill gave a report on the condition of Brushy Creek. The first phase of reconstruction of the Beach parking lot has involved clearing out area for parking lot and utilities, by moving dirt. The second phase will create shelters and restrooms. The third phase will create the lodge and large shelter overlooking the lake. Storm damage in July, had many trees down, trail erosion, some trails will need surface rock repair. Flooding washed out 10 feet of dirt and rock to expose the Clay Hill culverts. Trails South of South campground, and South of the South Day Use needed rebuilding. The River trails are closed by debris, soil and sand deposits; trails will need clean up. Trails along the river have been washed out, with more banks lost by the flooding. Those trails will be repositioned.

Cabins are still being designed. Bids will be made collectively with the beach project to make the bidding more attractive.

A trail workday in May had volunteers split into 2 groups to prune, clean trails and repair water bars.

New manure bunkers have been received well in the South Campground.

There has not been a noticeable change of camp users by the weather.

Erin Ford reported that programs on weekends have included moonlight paddles, hikes, and kayaking lessons. The Young Guns program is working with Pheasants Forever and 4-H. Grants have been applied for to pay for materials.

Spillway bridge contractors have selected the materials to be supplied. Constructions will begin in the fall. A trail will be constructed to connect the new trail back to the original trail, with riprap to cross the overflow ditch.

Discussion held of trail maps and signs development. Iowa Heritage Foundation is developing an app with all the state park maps and trails.

Hitching rail at the trail rest rooms are requested.

NEXT MEETING scheduled for October 16, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT 7:26

Respectfully submitted

Beth Aswegan

